



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

July 25, 2014

Mr. Peter D. Robertson
The Pebble Partnership
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 11101
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request Number EPA-R10-2014-002963

Dear Mr. Robertson,

This is an interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 27, 2014, regarding any communication on the subject of (a) a mining project in Southwest Alaska commonly called the Pebble project or the Pebble Mine ("Pebble Mine"), (b) the Agency's Bristol Bay Assessment, or any other matter connected to the Pebble Mine between certain named EPA personnel and specified individuals or entities outside of EPA. As promised, we have uploaded additional documents onto FOIA on-line for the above-referenced FOIA. Please visit your account to download and view the records.

Though your request was for a relatively narrow category of documents, we needed to review voluminous files of documents in order to determine which documents are responsive to your request. Also, as you may know, Region 10 is responding to several large document requests from Pebble and other governmental and non-governmental entities. As a result, we are providing you with another interim response instead of a final response to your request. We are responding as quickly as we can, given EPA's limited resources.

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 2.104(d), an extension of time to complete your request is necessary. We will need approximately two more weeks to finish redacting the documents that include personal information or privileged material, and to review what we believe are the last batch of documents that may include information responsive to your request. EPA will be providing the final response on August 11, 2014. I appreciate your patience. Please do not hesitate to call or email Elizabeth

McKenna, Assistant Regional Counsel, with any questions. Ms. McKenna can be reached at (206) 553-0016, or mckenna.elizabeth@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Allnutt', is written over the typed name.

David Allnutt, Director
Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs